



You are invited to the 2026 Wheatley Lecture Event:

The 2026 Wheatley Lecture event will be held on Thursday, March 26, 2026 on the campus of Rocky Mountain College in Billings, Montana.

The event begins with a **reception** at 5:30pm in the Great Room of Prescott Hall. Enjoy hors d'oeuvres and conversation with others, meet RMC students and faculty, and ask questions about the College. This reception is free and open to the public.

The keynote **lecture** begins at 7:00pm and features Darrell Ehrlick, editor-in-chief of the Daily Montanan. He will be exploring the idea that "If you Believe in the Bible, you have to Believe in Journalism," and focusing on the necessity of prophetic roles in our society.

The lecture will be held in the Auditorium of Losekamp Hall, and is free and open to the public.

About our Keynote Lecturer:

Darrell Ehrlick is a fourth-generation Yellowstone County resident, having been born and raised in Billings, graduating from Billings Senior High. He received his degrees from Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota in religious studies and an honors degree in Literature, with minors in Greek, Latin and Russian. He studied religion in graduate school at Candler School of Theology at Emory University and worked on an MFA in literary journalism at Bennington College in Vermont. He's authored four books and edited an anthology of local history. He has been a journalist in seven states, getting his start at The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead. He was awarded the highest honor the Veterans of Foreign War can bestow on a journalist for his work collecting and documenting veterans of the Vietnam War. He taught journalism at the university level, has been involved in numerous nonprofit boards and was the editor of The Billings Gazette before starting the nonprofit Daily Montanan, which is a part of States Newsroom, the largest nonprofit news organization in the country. He and his spouse, Cassy, have three children, three cats and live in downtown Billings.



About the Wheatley Lectures:

Through the generosity of those who appreciated the talents, contributions and Christian example of Bishop Melvin E. Wheatley, Jr., the Yellowstone Legacy Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church and Rocky Mountain College established the Wheatley Lectureship Restricted Endowment account to perpetuate and to honor Bishop Wheatley's name and contributions to the United Methodist Church and beyond.

The lecture series is a collaboration between the Church and the College, and honors the ideals of Bishop Wheatley, which included social justice issues, promotion of an inclusive church, academic inquiry, pastoral care and ethics.
